

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

GEOTAG, INC.

Plaintiff,

v.

GUCCI AMERICA, INC., *et al.*;

Defendants.

C.A. No. 2:10-cv-00571-TJW

Judge T. John Ward

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

**DEFENDANT STAPLES, INC.'S ANSWER, AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES, AND
COUNTERCLAIMS TO PLAINTIFF GEOTAG, INC.'S COMPLAINT**

Defendant Staples, Inc. ("Staples") hereby sets forth its Answer, Defenses, and Counterclaims to the Complaint for Patent Infringement of Plaintiff GeoTag, Inc. ("GeoTag" or "Plaintiff"). Staples responds to the individually enumerated paragraphs of the Complaint as follows:

PARTIES

1. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 1, and, therefore, denies them.

2. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 2, and, therefore, denies them.

3. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 3, and, therefore, denies them.

4. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 4, and, therefore, denies them.

5. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 5, and, therefore, denies them.

6. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 6, and, therefore, denies them.

7. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 7, and, therefore, denies them.

8. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 8, and, therefore, denies them.

9. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 9, and, therefore, denies them.

10. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 10, and, therefore, denies them.

11. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 11, and, therefore, denies them.

12. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 12, and, therefore, denies them.

13. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 13, and, therefore, denies them.

14. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 14, and, therefore, denies them.

15. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 15, and, therefore, denies them.

16. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 16, and, therefore, denies them.

17. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 17, and, therefore, denies them.

18. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 18, and, therefore, denies them.

19. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 19, and, therefore, denies them.

20. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 20, and, therefore, denies them.

21. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 21, and, therefore, denies them.

22. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 22, and, therefore, denies them.

23. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 23, and, therefore, denies them.

24. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 24, and, therefore, denies them.

25. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 25, and, therefore, denies them.

26. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 26, and, therefore, denies them.

27. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 27, and, therefore, denies them.

28. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 28, and, therefore, denies them.

29. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 29, and, therefore, denies them.

30. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 30, and, therefore, denies them.

31. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 31, and, therefore, denies them.

32. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 32, and, therefore, denies them.

33. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 33, and, therefore, denies them.

34. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 34, and, therefore, denies them.

35. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 35, and, therefore, denies them.

36. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 36, and, therefore, denies them.

37. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 37, and, therefore, denies them.

38. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 38, and, therefore, denies them.

39. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 39, and, therefore, denies them.

40. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 40, and, therefore, denies them.

41. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 41, and, therefore, denies them.

42. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 42, and, therefore, denies them.

43. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 43, and, therefore, denies them.

44. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 44, and, therefore, denies them.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

45. Staples admits that this Complaint purports to be an action arising under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code and that this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over such matters pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a), however, Staples denies the legal sufficiency of Plaintiff's claims and allegations and denies that Plaintiff has any viable claim thereunder. Staples further denies that it has interactive websites comprising infringing methods and apparatuses which are at least used in and/or accessible in this forum. Staples admits that it has done and solicited business from goods and services provided to persons or entities in Texas. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient

to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations of Paragraph 45 and, therefore, denies them.

46. To the extent that the allegations in Paragraph 46 are related to Staples, Staples admits that venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 (b) – (c) and 1400(b). Staples denies that it has committed acts of patent infringement in this district or any other judicial district. Further, Staples denies that it has interactive websites comprising infringing methods and apparatuses which are at least used in and/or accessible in this district. Staples admits that it has done and solicited business from goods and services provided to persons or entities in this district. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations of Paragraph 46 and, therefore, denies them.

47. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 47, and, therefore, denies them.

COUNT I

INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 5,930,474

48. Staples admits that United States Patent No. 5,930,474 (“the ’474 patent”) is entitled “Internet Organizer for Accessing Geographically and Topically Based Information.” Staples further admits that the ’474 patent indicates an issue date of July 29, 1999.

49. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 49, and, therefore, denies them.

50. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 50, and, therefore, denies them.

51. Staples denies that it has infringed the ’474 patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271 through actions comprising the making, using, selling and/or offering for sale in the United

States of systems and methods which comprise associating on-line information with geographic areas. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations of Paragraph 51 and, therefore, denies them.

52. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 52, and, therefore, denies them.

53. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 53, and, therefore, denies them.

54. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 54, and, therefore, denies them.

55. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 55, and, therefore, denies them.

56. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 56, and, therefore, denies them.

57. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 57, and, therefore, denies them.

58. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 58, and, therefore, denies them.

59. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 59, and, therefore, denies them.

60. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 60, and, therefore, denies them.

61. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 61, and, therefore, denies them.

62. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 62, and, therefore, denies them.

63. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 63, and, therefore, denies them.

64. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 64, and, therefore, denies them.

65. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 65, and, therefore, denies them.

66. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 66, and, therefore, denies them.

67. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 67, and, therefore, denies them.

68. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 68, and, therefore, denies them.

69. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 69, and, therefore, denies them.

70. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 70, and, therefore, denies them.

71. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 71, and, therefore, denies them.

72. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 72, and, therefore, denies them.

73. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 73, and, therefore, denies them.

74. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 74, and, therefore, denies them.

75. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 75, and, therefore, denies them.

76. Staples denies that the Store Locator or Check Availability functions at staples.com infringe the '474 patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271 through actions comprising the making, using, selling and/or offering for sale in the United States of systems and methods which comprise associating on-line information with geographic areas. Staples denies the remaining allegations of paragraph 76.

77. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 77, and, therefore, denies them.

78. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 78, and, therefore, denies them.

79. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 79, and, therefore, denies them.

80. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 80, and, therefore, denies them.

81. Staples denies that it is or has been willfully infringing the '474 patent. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations of Paragraph 81, and, therefore, denies them.

82. Staples denies that it has infringed the '474 patent, and denies that it has damaged GeoTag. Staples denies that it is liable to GeoTag for any amount, including a reasonable royalty. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations of Paragraph 82, and, therefore, denies them.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Staples denies that GeoTag is entitled to the relief requested in Paragraphs 1 – 6 of GeoTag's Prayer for Relief as those relate to Staples. Staples is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations of GeoTag's Prayer for Relief, and, therefore, denies them.

GENERAL DENIAL

Except as expressly admitted herein, Staples denies each and every allegation contained in GeoTag's Complaint.

JURY DEMAND

Staples admits that GeoTag demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable in this action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38(b). Staples demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

DEFENSES

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(c), and without assuming any burden that it would not otherwise bear, and reserving its rights to assert additional defenses, Staples asserts the following defenses to GeoTag's Complaint:

FIRST DEFENSE
(FAILURE TO STATE A CLAIM)

1. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

SECOND DEFENSE
(NONINFRINGEMENT)

2. Staples does not infringe and has not infringed any valid and enforceable claim of the '474 patent literally, directly, indirectly, contributorily, by way of inducement, or under the doctrine of equivalents.

THIRD DEFENSE
(INVALIDITY)

3. The claims of the patent-in-suit are invalid for failure to meet the requirements of the Patent Act, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 and/or 112. For example, the claims fail to satisfy the written description and enablement requirements because the claims recite several purportedly novel limitations that are not mentioned, much less described, in the patent's specification, and thus purport to appropriate subject matter for which there is no evidence of actual invention.

FOURTH DEFENSE
(PROSECUTION HISTORY ESTOPPEL)

4. By reason of the proceedings in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office during the prosecution of the applications which resulted in the issuance of the patent-in-suit, GeoTag is estopped from claiming infringement by Staples of one or more claims of the patent-in-suit.

FIFTH DEFENSE
(LIMITATION ON DAMAGES)

5. Any claim by GeoTag for damages is limited under 35 U.S.C. §§ 286, 287, and/or 288. GeoTag is barred under 35 U.S.C. § 286 from recovering damages for acts occurring more

than six years prior to the date of the filing of the Complaint. Plaintiff is barred by 35 U.S.C. § 288 from recovering costs associated with its action.

SIXTH DEFENSE
(EQUITY)

6. GeoTag is barred in whole or in part under principles of equity, including, but not limited to, laches, prosecution laches, waiver, estoppel, and/or unclean hands.

SEVENTH DEFENSE
(NO EXCEPTIONAL CASE)

7. GeoTag cannot prove that this is an exceptional case justifying award of attorney fees against Staples pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285.

EIGHTH DEFENSE
(ADEQUATE REMEDY AT LAW)

8. GeoTag is not entitled to injunctive relief because any alleged injury to GeoTag is not immediate or irreparable, since GeoTag does not practice the '474 patent, and GeoTag has an adequate remedy at law.

NINTH DEFENSE
(LACK OF STANDING)

9. GeoTag does not have standing to bring an action for infringement of the '474 patent under the Patent Laws of the United States.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

Staples reserves the right to add any additional defenses or counterclaims that discovery may reveal.

COUNTERCLAIMS

Defendant/Counterclaimant Staples, Inc. (“Staples”) asserts counterclaims against Plaintiff/Counterdefendant GeoTag, Inc. (“GeoTag”) as follows:

Nature and Basis of Action

1. This is an action arising under the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202 and the United States Patent Act, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.* Staples requests declarations that: (i) it does not infringe any valid, enforceable claim of the ’474 patent; and (ii) the ’474 patent is invalid.

The Parties, Jurisdiction, and Venue

2. Staples is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, with a principal place of business at 500 Staples Drive, Framingham, MA 01702.

3. According to Plaintiff’s Complaint, GeoTag is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware with a place of business in Plano, Texas.

4. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338, and the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over GeoTag pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas and the United States Constitution, including the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment. On information and belief, GeoTag has had substantial contacts with the State of Texas relating to the ’474 patent sufficient to confer specific jurisdiction. Further, by filing its Complaint, GeoTag has consented to the personal jurisdiction of this Court.

6. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1400.

Factual Allegations

7. GeoTag purports to be the owner by assignment of the '474 patent in its Complaint.

8. GeoTag asserts that Staples has infringed one or more claims of the '474 patent in its Complaint.

9. Staples does not infringe and has not infringed any valid, enforceable claim of the '474 patent.

10. Upon information and belief, all claims of the '474 patent are invalid for failure to meet the requirements of the Patent Act, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and 112.

COUNTERCLAIM I:
(DECLARATION OF NONINFRINGEMENT)

11. Staples realleges and incorporates the averments of Paragraphs 1 through 10, inclusive, of its Counterclaims as if set forth herein in full.

12. There is an actual and justiciable controversy between the parties arising under the Patent Act, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.* concerning Staples' non-infringement of the claims of the '474 patent.

13. Staples has not infringed and does not infringe any valid, enforceable claim of the '474 patent.

14. Staples is entitled to a judicial declaration that it has not infringed and does not infringe any valid, enforceable claim of the '474 patent.

COUNTERCLAIM II:
(DECLARATION OF INVALIDITY)

15. Staples realleges and incorporates the averments of Paragraphs 1 through 14, inclusive, of its Counterclaims as if set forth herein in full.

16. There is an actual and justiciable controversy between the parties concerning the invalidity of the '474 patent for failure to meet the requirements of the Patent Act, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 and 112.

17. The '474 patent is invalid for failure to meet the requirements of the Patent Act, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 and 112.

18. Staples is entitled to a judicial declaration and order that the '474 patent is invalid.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Staples requests judgment in its favor and against GeoTag as follows:

- (i) GeoTag recover nothing and its Complaint be dismissed with prejudice;
- (ii) The Court deny any injunctive relief in favor of GeoTag and against Staples;
- (iii) The Court declare that Staples has not infringed and does not infringe any claim of the '474 Patent;
- (iv) The Court declare and order that the '474 Patent is invalid;
- (v) The Court find this case to be exceptional pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285 and award Staples its reasonable attorneys' fees in this action;
- (vi) All costs be taxed against GeoTag; and
- (vii) Staples be granted such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted this 4th day of April, 2011.

/s/Michael A. Albert

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Attorneys for Defendant Staples, Inc.

Certificate of Service

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing document was filed electronically in compliance with Local Rule CV-5(a). As such, this document was served on all counsel who have consented to electronic service, Local Rule CV-5(a)(3)(A).

April 4, 2011

/s/ Michael A. Albert

Michael A. Albert